

# Comprehending Homelessness in New Mexican Communities

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## Abstract

In rural communities throughout New Mexico there has been a steady rise in population of people experiencing homelessness.

## Introduction

A steady rise in the amount of homeless people throughout rural communities in New Mexico has become apparent. Some of the factors that play into the fall of one's housing status can be linked to a multitude of issues. In this study, I set off to explain why people that are homeless and got to where they are. People that are homeless are often looked down at by others without knowing the experiences a person has gone thorough.



## Results

In my interview they mentioned, "Every individual comes with a story. The homeless population is inevitable. It stems from different situations finding people homeless because of circumstance. It's not just drug addiction that has individuals homeless. Emotions around words like 'addiction' brings out hostility in people. People are turned off by it because they feel pushed aside." They mentioned how somebody told them, "I can't take the steps for you, but when you're ready I can help do the leg work for you." The most inspiring part of the interview was when they said, "Little tiny, tiny acts of love, gave me motivation to begin to take the step out of the situation that I was in."

## Literature Review

I identified the gaps in other research studies that have already been conducted involving people that are homeless.

## Methodology

The approached my research study from a humanistic perspective to better comprehend people that are homeless. I conducted one interview and watched videos of other homeless populations to identify patterns. I analyzed the data to propose ways to combat the rise in homelessness.

## Discussion

A variation found in my results is that homeless people do not respond well when asking a direct question with words like "substance abuse." People that are homeless fair best when they have external resources to assist them along the way. A persons housing status cannot be linked to any one given reason such as mental illness or substance abuse. However, if a person has a strong support system, they have a better chance of escaping homelessness. Given the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, field research was limited. Further firsthand accounts from homeless people will provide more data.